GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:703
ANSWERED ON:20.07.2017
Access to Safe Drinking Water
Maadam Smt. Poonamben Hematbhai

Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the latest percentage of households with access to safe drinking water in the country, State-wise;
(b) the comparative details of the said percentage during the last one year, State-wise;
(c) whether there is difference between the rural and urban areas in regard to the accessibility to safe drinking water and if so, the details thereof;
(d) the steps taken by the Government to provide safe drinking water to the entire population of the country; and
(e) whether the Government is continuously monitoring the steps taken in this regard and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
(SHRI RAMESH CHANDAPPA JIGAJINAGI)

(a) & (b) The Ministry does not monitors the data with regard to drinking water supply in terms of households. Access to drinking water in terms of habitations has been categorised as Fully Covered (FC), Partially Covered (PC) and Quality Affected (QA) as per norms of National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP). Fully Covered habitations are those habitations where drinking water availability is at least 40 litres per capita per day (lpcd); Partially Covered are those habitations where drinking water availability is less than 40 lpcd and Quality Affected habitations are those habitations where drinking water is contaminated with chemical contaminant.

This Ministry monitors access to safe drinking water in terms of population and habitation. As per information provided by State Governments on the online portal of the Ministry, the State-wise latest percentage of population with access to safe drinking water along with the comparative details during the last one year is at Annexure.

(c) Yes Madam. The Central Public Health and Environmental Engineering Organisation (CPHEEO) defines minimum service level for towns provided with piped water supply but without sewerage system as 70 litres per capita per day (LPCD), cities provided with piped water supply where sewerage system is existing / contemplated as 135 LPCD, and Metropolitan and mega cities provided with piped water supply where sewerage system in existing / contemplated is 150 LPCD. Basic minimum service level considered at present for rural water supply is 40 LPCD as per National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) guidelines.

(d) The Ministry of drinking water and sanitation has prepared a Strategic Plan as per which the goal is to provide safe drinking water to 90% of the rural population through piped water supply schemes by the year 2022, subject to availability of adequate funds.

(e) Every year between February and April, Annual Action Plan meetings are held with the department of each state dealing with rural drinking water supply, wherein the progress achieved under different components of NRDWP are reviewed for the current year and targets are agreed for the next financial year. The physical and financial progress of NRDWP is also monitored in National / Regional / State level review meetings, conferences and Video-conferences. Officers of the Ministry are also deputed to States to make field visits and review the progress of implementation. Further, Area Officers are nominated for all States and they participate in the State Level Scheme Sanctioning Committees so as to ensure that the project proposals are implemented as per the mutually agreed Action Plan. Monitoring of drinking water supply to the rural population is a dynamic and continuous process.